THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) A capacity addition of 78,577 MW comprising of 16,553 MW Hydro, 58,644 MW thermal and 3,380 MW Nuclear (39,865 MW in the Central Sector, 27,952 MW in the State Sector and 10,760 MW in Private Sector) has been proposed during the 11th Plan.

The working Group on Power for the 11th Plan has estimated the total fund requirements for the power sector during the 11th Plan at Rs. 10,31,600 Crore (which includes funds for Generation Projects, Transmission and Distribution including Rural Electrification, Human Resources Development, Demand side Management, R&D, Non-Conventional Energy sources and Merchant Plants etc). Planning Commission has not so far approved the proposed XI Plan capacity addition target and outlay.

Pollution by power generation units

†1425. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power generation sectors in the country are causing environmental pollution;

(b) if so, the assessment with regard to the pollution caused by thermal, hydel, biomass, wind-energy, atomic energy, etc. sectors; and

(c) the established capacity of power generation in each of the said sectors at the end of March, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) According to an assessment made by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), thermal power plants have been identified as one of the seventeen highly polluting categories of industry in the country. It is estimated that about 82% and 89% of particulate matter and sulphurdioxide respectively, emissions are form thermal power plants. Besides, about 110 million tonnes per annum of solid waste (flyash) is also generated from coal fired thermal power plants.

Some recent studies have suggested that methane gas is generated from Hydro power projects, however, no estimates have been made so far.

Wind Power Projects do not cause any environmental pollution as there are no emissions from these projects. Biomass based power project use biomass as fuel and they do not result in net build up of carbondioxide in the atmosphere as combustion of biomass is "carbon neutral" (i.e. the carbondioxide released when biomass is burned equals the amount absorbed from the atmosphere by plants).

Nuclear Power is also environmentally benign and is free of emissions.

(c) The established capacity of power generation in each of these sectors at the end of March, 2007 is as indicated below:

(i) Hydro	:	34,653.77 MW
(ii) Thermal	:	86,014.84 MW

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iii) Nuclear	:	3,900.00 MW
(iv) Renewable Energy Sources:		
(a) Small Hydro Projects	:	904.65 MW
(b) Wind	:	6,305.00 MW
(c) Bio-mass power	:	510.00 MW
(d) Urban & Industrial Waste & Solar	:	40.95 MW
TOTAL	:	1,32,329.21 MW

Activities of PGCIL

1426. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Power Grid Corporation Limited (PGCIL) is investing a large amount in sectors other than power distribution;

(b) if so, the complete details in this regard;

(c) what are the plans of PGCIL in distribution of power during the next two years; and

(d) whether PGCIL intends to capture foreign market in near future and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) has been notified as the Central Transmission Utility (CTU) of India, under the Electricity Act, 2003. It undertakes the development of inter-State transmission systems at Extra High Voltage (EHV) level. Besides its core business of power transmission, PGCIL has also diversifed into the Telecom business, leveraging its country wide power transmission infrastructure. The Government of India has approved an investment of about Rs. 934 crore for this activity. Most of the telecom network has already been installed and connectivity has been provided to all metros and major cities.

During the Xth Plan, out of a total investment of about Rs. 18,919 crore, the investment in the telecom business was 3.5% (about Rs. 663 crore) and in the current year i.e. 2007-08, investment in the telecom business is envisaged to be only Rs. 11 crore (0.17% of the total budgetary outlay of Rs. 6504 crore).

(c) The PGCIL is entrusted with the responsibility of development of inter-State Transmission systems. The PGCIL plans to implement about 12,580 ckt. Kms inter-state transmission network during 2007-08 and 2008-09 with an investment of around Rs. 14,544 crores.

(d) The PGCIL has secured consultancy in the area of power transmission in Bhutan, Nepal, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Dubai.